South Vietnam COUNTRY

C -311/07913-67 REPORT NO.

SUBJECT

Viet Cong Prison System in Binh Long Province

20 July 1967 DATE DISTR

NO. PAGES

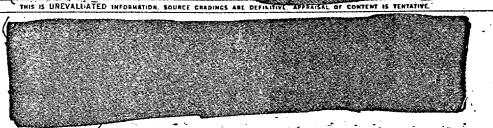
REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. PLACE &

30 December 1965-17 April 1967

Vietnam, Bien Hoa V29 June 1967) DATE ACQ.

SOURCE:



- Summary: During the period 30 December 1965-17 April 1967, the Viet Cong (VC) in Binh Long Province had five prison camps known as B5, B4, B3, B2 and B1. The first camp, B5, appeared to be a holding area where a prisoner's disposition was decided. In camps B4 and B3, interrogations were conducted. At B2, the final decision was made as to whether a prisoner was to be executed or released. A prisoner slated for release was then moved to Bl, where he underwent daily indoctrination and had to sign a statement that he would keep secret everything he had seen. All five camps were composed of thatched huts . nd were well guarded. There was no indication that any of the five camps held American --prisoners.
- During the period 30 December 1965 17 April 1967, the Viet Cong (VC) in Binh Long Province appeared to have a system of handling prisoners of all categories that involved the use of five successive detention camps designated B5, B4, B3, B2 and B1. Each camp served a specific function and prisoners were moved from one camp to the next one in accordance with what appeared to be a standardized system. The specific functions of the individual camps were following;

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The first camp into which a prisoner was introduced was Camp B5, located 15 kilomotors southwest of Tay Ninh "15/10/61" City (exact location unknown). The initial decision (2015) concerning the prisoner's disposition probably was taken (5.2412) here. After an undetermined position After an undetermined period of time, the prisoner 7 be transferred to Camp B4. would be transferred to Camp B4.

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At Camp B4, the prisoner was interrogated frequently, usually about the same subjects, namely, personal background, American and Vietnamese intelligence services worked for SROK RUDAL IAD etc. Prisoners were sometimes tortured and were forced to dig trenches and foxholes around the prison compound. The camp was located at approximately XT 905967 and consisted of six thatched houses, each 5 x 10 meters in size and housing 46 prisoners, guarded by about 70 VC. The prisoners (3 32 III were mainly Montagnards, Cambodians and Vietnamese.

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c. At Camp B3, located at approximately XU 887034, prisoners underwent further interrogation. The camp consisted of nine thatched houses and was the strongest of the five in terms of defensive positions. Three trails were used to reach B3: one from Loi Minh Hamlet, one from Tra Thanh Village, and the third from the Song Be River, which forms the natural boundary between Government of Vietnam Phuoc Long and Binh Long Provinces. All other trails leading to B3 were mined and/or trapped with spike pits. Normally, about 90 VC were stationed permanently at the camp, but, on occasion, there were as many as 800. One prisoner suc-1732 W. Wyceeded in escaping from B3 but was shortly recaptured and killed by the VC.

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Camp B2 was located at XU 906107 and was where a prisoner's . final fate was decided, that is, whether he was to be released or executed. Before any prisoner was executed, coul 65 Rure his crimes were announced publicly to the other prisoners. Three Vietnamese prisoners were executed in October 1966, one of them a former candidate for the National Assembly. At B2, all prisoners were kept in their cells at all times; like Camps B4 and B3, B2 held approximately 46 prisoners. The permanent guard force was composed of between 150 and 200 Montagnards.

If it was decided to free a prisoner, he was then transferred to Camp Bl, located at XU 980111. He remained here 5-320 for an indeterminate time, during which he was subjected Phuoc Tink Proto daily indoctrination and was finally forced to write a declaration stating that he would keep secret after his release everything he had seen. As the final step, the prisoner was led to Tra Thanh Village, where he was set free. At Bl, 32 prisoners were confined in 26 thatched houses. An lestimated 150 VC were in the camp. On occasion the camp served as a temporary base for regular units moving through the area. Once, about 1,500 VC troops camped Myl-Y there for the night.

> Comment: It cannot be determined from Source's .... comments if this procedure was standard for handling all VC prisoners or if Source's experiences were unique. Source was also unable to identify the particular point at which each prisoner is introduced into this VC penal system. At no time during the 17 months he spent in the five camps described did he see any American prisoners.